

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form  
Number

104-0-2-0

Hanover

HNS.253

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 170 State Street

**Historic Name:** Crowell and Betsey Bonney  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family  
Residential  
Original: Single-Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** Prior to 1812

**Source:** White's History, Plan 5 No. 76 Page  
93

**Style/Form:** Gothic Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Small shed located to east of house and wood  
picket fencing surrounding yard to east of house

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Cross gables  
on One-story addition to the east facade

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒

**yes** ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.45 Acres

**Setting:** Located on a winding road through a  
residential neighborhood of medium sized single  
family homes centered on large, open lots which  
are surrounded by dense vegetation and mature  
trees.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

170

State Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.253

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half-story Gothic Revival style structure has a wide gable roof over a similarly wide rectangular footprint with a long cross-gable roofed addition extending from the northeast corner of the east façade. Large, triangular gable-end wall dormers extend from each corner of the front façade over a long, open front porch and a single small, corbeled brick chimney is located at the center of the roof ridge. The house is wood shingle sided with wood trim and twelve-over-twelve double hung wood windows with wide, flat wood frames and narrow projecting sills. The asphalt shingled roof overhangs each of the gable ends with a wide band of wood molding around the eaves over deep wood soffits. A narrower wood cornice board runs around the outer edge of the pediment which dies into the porch roof on the dormers but ends in short returns on the north and south gable-ends of the house.

The house faces west towards the street and is set back from and slightly above the road. The house has a symmetrical front façade with the gable-end dormer located to either side of the center entrance. Each dormer has a single double hung window at its center and two more double hung windows are located to either side of the entrance within the long, open porch that spans the west façade of the house. As these steeply pitched, Gothic Revival style dormers are mid-nineteenth century in design, it is unlikely that they are original to the house and appear to be later additions to the structure. The porch has a flat roof with narrow eaves that extend out slightly beyond the narrow wood cornice surrounding the upper edge of the opening. Six wood columns span the open west façade of the porch, each with a narrow capital and base. A Queen Anne style wood door with a large oval window is located at the center of the porch with four pane sidelights over narrow panels to each side within a wide wood frame.

On the north façade, two double hung windows are located on each floor at each corner of the gable-end façade. The north façade of the one-story addition is flush with the gable end, and the northeast corner board has been removed to continue the siding across the addition. The gable-end return is also missing in this corner and the eaves and cornice board instead continue around the lower edge of the gable-end and across the upper edge of the addition's north façade. Two smaller double hung windows are also located on the north façade of the addition. On the south façade, the gable-end is intact and has a small rectangular vent at the peak in addition to the two windows on each floor below. A second entrance is located at the center of the first floor under a flat roofed entrance hood. The hood is decorated with wood molding around the eaves and wood board braces to either side of the door, which is hidden behind a metal storm door. A low granite step and short brick walkway lead from the door to the driveway.

The house and addition have an L-shaped footprint and the open area on the east façade is surrounded by a wood picket fence which extends out from the southeast corner of the house and runs to the eastern end of the driveway before turning north. The asphalt paved driveway is located to the south of the house and widens at its eastern end for a large parking area. A smaller turnaround area is located on the south side of the driveway and a large boulder is located in the yard to the east. A low fieldstone wall is visible along the west property line and mature trees can be found throughout the open grass lawn surrounding the house. A large evergreen bush is also situated at each end of the open porch. A small gable-roofed shed is visible at the far eastern edge of the open lawn.

*Continuation sheet 2*

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

170

State Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	HNS.253
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### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's History of Hanson, the house was formerly the home of Mr. Crowell Bonney and was already in place in 1830. This is confirmed by the 1830 Smith Plan which shows "C. Bonney" living on the east side of State Street. Crowell Bonney (1784-1863) was born in Pembroke to Nancy Torry and Noah Bonney and married Betsey Hatch in Pembroke in 1812. That same year, Crowell acquired from Jonathan Bonney, who was married to Margaret Torry and may have been an uncle or other relation, "my homestead farm whereon I now dwell with the buildings thereon now standing." This suggests that the house may have predated Crowell's ownership, although exactly when this house may have been built is not clear. The property included 60 acres in addition to the house. Crowell worked as a farmer and owned land on both sides of State Street in the first half of the nineteenth century. He remained in the house for the rest of his life and is shown again as the owner of the property on the 1856 Walling Map. Crowell left his homestead to his daughters, Betsey H. White, wife of Cyrus White who lived across State Street, and Sara W. Studley (1831-1901), wife of George Studley (1824-1901). The couple had married in 1850 and purchased Betsey's share in the property in 1864. It is very possible that the Gothic Revival dormers and other alterations to the house date to this time period and that the Studleys chose to "modernize" the family home when they moved in and added what were then quite popular architectural features. George farmed the property and eventually passed it on to their son, Joshua Studley (1857-1939) who had his own farm in Hanover. In 1886, Joshua sold the property to Thomas Bates.<sup>1</sup>

There is little known about Thomas Bates and no clear record either that he lived in the house or how the property was passed on to the next owner, Mary Bates. Presumably Mary was his wife, although when or for how long they were married is unknown. Mary Bates (b. 1835) first appears as the owner of the State Street property on the 1910 U.S. Census, where she is listed as a widow who had immigrated from Ireland around 1867. At that time, Mary lived with her nieces, Mary and Helen Barry, and nephew, Daniel Barry. In 1915, Mary transferred the property to her niece, Helen, following her marriage in 1913 to Cornelius Mahoney (1879-1953) of Rockland. By 1920, Cornelius worked as a shoe maker in the local factory and is listed as the head of the State Street household, which at the time included Mary Bates and Mary and Daniel Barry, as well as Helen and Cornelius' children, John and Helen Mahoney. The same extended family household was in place in 1930, with the exception of Daniel Barry, a mail carrier who had moved to Rockland. After Helen's death in 1965, her sons and estate sold the property to Patricia and Joseph Nover.<sup>2</sup> Joseph worked for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company in Boston. In 1973, the couple sold the property to George G. and Carole Byl.<sup>3</sup> In 1985 Carole Byl, now Carole E. Holand, sold the house to current owner Cynthia Bermingham and her husband Joseph Shepard.<sup>4</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 520, Page 188

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3233, Page 327-328

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3918, Page 138

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 6384, Page 171

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

170

State Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.253

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Town of Hanson Assessor's database and property record cards, [www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123](http://www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123)

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# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

170

State Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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HNS.253

### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This Gothic Revival detailed Cape style house was constructed sometime prior to 1812 and is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts and the development of the town of Hanson. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and much of its original architectural character intact despite two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century architecture while also illustrating how these homes were expanded and adapted, in this case with new Gothic Revival style architectural features and trim details, to meet the changing fashion and needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.